

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants have amended Claim 8 consistent with the description at page 31, lines 4-13, of the specification.

Applicants have rewritten Claims 9 and 10 so that they each depend from Claim 1. Amended Claims 9 and 10 maintain the same scope as original Claims 9 and 10, but they directly depend from a product claim (Claim 1) rather than process Claims 7 and 8, respectively.

No new matter has been added.

The Office Action Summary page attached to the Office Action mailed September 10, 2003, indicates that a copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) included with the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on March 19, 2001, was attached to the Office Action. Applicants, however, did not actually receive a copy of the Form with the Office Action. Applicants kindly request a new copy of the Form to be included with the next communication to Applicants.

At Section No. 1, page 2, of the Action, the Examiner acknowledges the election of Group I, Claims 1-6 and 9-10, drawn to a radiation image conversion panel.

Applicants would like to point out, however, that where an applicant elects claims directed to a product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn method claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined. Accordingly, in the event that elected product Claim 1 is found allowable, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn method Claims 7 and 8.

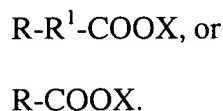
At Section No. 2, page 2, of the Action, the Examiner objects to the abstract of the disclosure. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection in view of the abstract as amended herein.

AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/810,230

At Section No. 4, page 3, of the Action, Claims 1-6 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,523,558 to Bringley, *et al.* ("Bringley").

Applicants respectfully traverse this §102(b) rejection.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a radiation image conversion panel comprising a support body and a phosphor layer provided on the support body. The phosphor layer contains a binding agent, a phosphor, and at least aryl carboxylic acid or alicyclic carboxylic acid, expressed by the following general Formula:



The Examiner has taken the position that Bringley discloses a stabilizing compound "that can be an aryl carboxylic acid as per instant claims 1 and 2 (see column 3, line 25-column 4, line 63)."

Applicants respectfully disagree.

The claimed aryl carboxylic acid or alicyclic carboxylic acid, expressed by the general formulas $\text{R-R}^1\text{-COOX}$ or R-COOX , does not encompass the stabilizing compounds disclosed in Bringley. Thus, Bringley does not disclose each and every element of the claimed radiation image conversion panel.

In particular, Bringley's stabilizing compounds are metal hydride stabilizing compounds described by the general formula $\text{D}_x[\text{MH}_a\text{R}_b]_y$, wherein each of the variables is defined at column 4, lines 20-35. There is no overlap between the presently claimed aryl carboxylic acid or alicyclic carboxylic acid, expressed by the general formulas $\text{R-R}^1\text{-COOX}$ or R-COOX , and Bringley's metal hydride stabilizing compounds described by the general formula $\text{D}_x[\text{MH}_a\text{R}_b]_y$. For example, Bringley's metal hydride stabilizing compounds necessarily require the presence of aluminum or boron, whereas the presently claimed aryl carboxylic acid or alicyclic carboxylic acid do not include within their scope aluminum-containing or boron-containing compounds.

AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/810,230

At Section No. 6, pages 4-5, of the Action, Claims 1-6 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,905,014 to Van de Bergh in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,262,424 to Yanagita, *et al.* ("Yanagita").

Applicants respectfully traverse this §103(a) rejection.

Focusing on independent Claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Van de Bergh discloses each of the elements thereof, including the claimed aryl carboxylic acid or alicyclic carboxylic acid, expressed by the general formulas $R-R^1-COOX$ or $R-COOX$. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Van de Bergh discloses a dye that falls within the scope of the aryl carboxylic acid or alicyclic carboxylic acid.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1, by the plain meaning of the language therein, and when properly construed according to the teachings of the underlying disclosure at page 25, line 14, through page 28, line 22, excludes from its scope the triarylmethane dyes of Van de Bergh. That is, the triarylmethane dyes of Van de Bergh fall outside the scope of the presently claimed aryl carboxylic acid or alicyclic carboxylic acid, expressed by the general formulas $R-R^1-COOX$ or $R-COOX$. For example, the claimed carboxylic acids do not encompass compounds having three aryl groups.

Accordingly, Van de Bergh fails to render obvious the claimed radiation image conversion panel because Van de Bergh does not disclose the claimed aryl carboxylic acid or alicyclic carboxylic acid and Van de Bergh provides no motivation to modify its disclosure and arrive at the claimed aryl carboxylic acid or alicyclic carboxylic acid. Yanagita does not cure Van de Bergh's deficiencies in this regard.

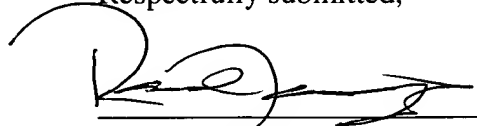
Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/810,230

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Raul Tamayo', is written over a horizontal line.

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